

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 AID-05 /057 W  
-----047318 262018Z /40

O R 261933Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5836

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0926

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, SHUM,NU  
SUBJECT: SOMOZA RALLY

SUMMARY: SOMOZA DELIVERED HIS PROMISED COMMITMENTS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE, ELECTORAL LAW REFORM, DIALOGUE, AND PROMISE TO RETURN TO PRIVATE LIFE BEFORE A CROWD OF PARTY FAITHFUL FOR SMALLER THAN HAD BEEN EXPECTED, END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT SOMOZA SPOKE ON FEB 26 BEFORE AN OUTDOOR LIBERAL PARTY RALLY ESTIMATED BY PARTY FAITHFUL AT OVER TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND BUT TO EMBOFF ESTIMATES THE CROWD WAS ABOUT ONE-TENTH OF THAT AMOUNT.

THE RALLY WAS PEACEFUL DESPITE RUMORS THAT REVOLUTIONARIES MIGHT TRY TO DISRUPT IT AND THEIR WAS NO INDICATION OF ATTEMPTS TO DISRUPT THE BUSES AND TRUCKS BRINGING THE CAMPESINOS AND PARTY FAITHFUL TO MANAGUA.

2. SOMOZA AND PRECEDING SPEAKERS DESCRIBED RALLY AS A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION OF LIBERAL PARTY MAJORITY STRENGTH AND REPUDIATION OF RECENT COMMUNIST VIOLENCE AND REACTIONARY  
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CAPITALIST ACTIVITIES (I.E., THE GENERAL STRIKE)  
IN HIS SPEECH THE MAJOR THEME WAS INCREASED SOCIAL BENEFITS AND DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH TO BENEFIT THE POOR.  
3. SOMOZA PROMISED LAWS TO PROVIDE A MANDATORY THIRTEENTH MONTH CHRISTMAS BONUS FOR ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EMPLOYEES, EXTENSION OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS TO DOMESTIC EMPLOYEES, SOCIAL WELFARE BENEFITS TO WIVES (BOTH LEGAL AND COMMON-LAW), AND A CHANGE IN

TRADE UNION LAW TO PROMOTE UNIMPEDED FREE ASSOCIATION.

4. THE OTHER IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF HIS SPEECH WERE THAT SOMOZA ANNOUNCED HE WOULD LEAVE THE PRESIDENCY AND THE NATIONALP GUARD IN 1981; HE CALLED FOR DIALOGUE AMONG ALL SECTORS; HE SAID THE CURRENCY WOULD REMAIN FIRM WITH THE BACKING OF THE CENTRAL BANK; AND THAT HE WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE CONGRESS A PARTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND ELECTORAL LAW WHICH WOULD OPEN THE DOORS OF THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM TO WHATEVER GROUP WHICH WANTED TO PARTICIPATE.

5. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP WITH ANALYSIS OF AND REACTION TO SPEECH.

RUBENSTEIN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAW, SOCIAL CHANGE, ELECTIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Subject:** SOMOZA RALLY SUMMARY: SOMOZA DELIVERED HIS PROMISED COMMITMENTS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE, ELECTORAL LAW REFORM, DIALOGUE, AND PROMIS  
**TAGS:** PINS, SHUM, NU, (SOMOZA)  
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